(a) the percentage of rain fed agriculture in the country;

(b) whether some alternative arrangements have been made for rain fed agriculture in the country in view of uncertainty of the monsoon;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any assessment has been made of the ground water utilization by the farmers for irrigation purposes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) About 57% of the net sown area is cultivated under rainfed condition.

(b) and (c) Government has accorded very high priority to the holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas through integrated watershed management approach. Following major schemes are being implemented by Government to enhance soil and water conservation.

Ministry of Agriculture

(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)

(ii) Soil Conservation for enhancing productivity of degraded lands in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR)

(iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)

Ministry of Rural Development

(iv) Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)

Government of India has established the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) to address various problems of farming in the rainfed areas and to ensure a coordinated strategy for development of rainfed areas. Under the programmes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, Micro Irrigation, National Horticulture Mission also, special focus is given to rainfed areas for improving the livelihood and agricultural productivity.

(d) to (f) No specific assessment has been made regarding percentage of farmers utilizing ground water for irrigation. However, assessment of ground water resources is carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Organisations. As per the assessment carried out during 2004, the ground water draft for irrigation is 212 billion cubic meter per year. About 60% of the total irrigated land in the country is irrigated by ground water.

Losses due to drought

†3668. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of States affected by drought this year in the country;

(b) the extent of loss incurred by each State as a result of this;

(c) the norms prescribed for providing relief to drought affected States;

(d) the amount of assistance and food-grains demanded by each States; and

(e) the State-wise amount released and quantum of foodgrains provided to tackle the problem of drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) As reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), during the period 1.6.2009 to 29.7.2009, out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions in the country, 18 received deficient rainfall (-20% to -59%) and 1 received scantly rainfall (-60% to -99%). In view of deficit rainfall in the State during South-West Monsoon, 2009, the Governments of Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur Nagaland and Uttar Pradesh have declared drought/drought like conditions in their States. It is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments to take immediate necessary measures for drought relief from the funds available in its Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). For assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), over and above CRF, the drought affected States are required to send Memorandum, with all relevant details. No such Memorandum for financial assistance or allocation of foodgrains has been received from any State, including the States, which have declared drought, for the current monsoon period. The existing norms of expenditure for assistance from CRF/NCCF include assistance towards input subsidy for crop loss of 50% and above, assistance for providing fodder for cattle maintained in the cattle camps, assistance for transportation of drinking water, assistance towards supplementary nutrition and gratuitous relief.

Steps to meet growing demand of foodgrains

3669. SHRI N.K. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current level of production of foodgrains, oilseeds, sugarcane etc. is declining and not adequate to meet the growing demand in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been decrease in the area of cultivation and which is causing decline in food production; and

(d) if so, the strategy adopted and the schemes formulated by Government to increase the production of foodgrains and also increase areas for cultivation to meet the growing demand of foodgrains in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The estimated production of foodgrains has been continuously increasing in the last few years and it is sufficient to meet the current demand in the country. The estimated